(a) whether Government have introduced any reforms in the agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating therein the benefits accrued after introduction of the reforms; and

(c) if no benefit have accrued, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The reforms carried out in the agriculture sector include liberalization of inter-state movement of foodgrains, promotion of exports of agricultural commodities, greater focus on development of oilseeds and pulses, promoting cropping system approach for increasing crop production, greater access to commodities etc. These reforms have helped in improvement of agricultural productivity and production.

Study by Tobacco Development Council

1451. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tabacco Development Council has done any study on the economic feasibility of conversion of tobacco to other crops; and

(b) if so, when was this study done and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Income from Sale of Passenger Tickets

1452. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total income of the Railways by sale of passenger tickets last year;

(b) what is the total income by sale of tickets for journeys to and from Kerala; and

(c) what is the amount spent for the development of Railways in Kerala last year and the total amount spent for all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total income of the Railways sale of passenger tickets last year under:

Year	(Amounts in of Rs.)
1995-96	6124.49

(b) and (c) State-wise information is not maintained in this regard.

Special Support Programme for Small Farmers

1453. SHRI DR.B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a Special Support Programme for the small farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how these have benefited the small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUAL-TURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation help the farmers both indirectly and directly. In the former case, the farmers are helped through infra-structural development. In the latter case, there are individual oriented schemes like assistance for weaker sections/women cooperatives, subsidy on transportation of seeds for remote areas and North-Eastern, concessional sale of fertilizers. In addition, subsidy on inputs, demonstrations on farmers' fields, extension training for farmers, subsidy on drip irrigation/sprinkler irrigation are covered under crop oriented and horticulture development programmes.

There are certain area development schemes like national Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas, Soil Conservation in River Valley Projects,

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